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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Malta, Monaco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Uganda and Zambia: draft resolution

Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons

The General Assembly,

Deeply disturbed by the alarmingly high numbers of internally displaced persons throughout the world who receive inadequate protection and assistance, and conscious of the serious problem this is creating for the international community,

Conscious of the human rights and the humanitarian dimensions of the problem of internally displaced persons and responsibilities this poses for States and the international community to explore methods and means better to address their protection and assistance needs,

Recalling the relevant norms of international human rights instruments, of international humanitarian law and analogous refugee law, and emphasizing the need for their better implementation with regard to internally displaced persons,

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Recalling also the emphasis in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action on the need to develop global strategies to address the problem of internal displacement,

Noting the progress made thus far by the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons in developing a legal framework, analysing institutional arrangements, undertaking dialogue with Governments and issuing a series of reports on particular country situations together with proposals for remedial measures,

Welcoming the request made by the Commission on Human Rights to the Secretary-General to ensure the rapid publication and the wide dissemination of the compilation and analysis of legal norms prepared by the representative,

Welcoming also the decision by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to extend a standing invitation to the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons to participate in its meetings and those of its subsidiary bodies, and encouraging further strengthening of this collaboration in order to promote better assistance, protection and development strategies for internally displaced persons,

Recalling its resolution 50/195 of 22 December 1995,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons;

2. Commends the representative of the Secretary-General for the activities undertaken so far, despite the limited resources available to him, and for the catalytic role he continues to play to raise the level of consciousness about the plight of internally displaced persons;

3. Encourages the representative to continue his analysis of the causes of internal displacement, the needs of those displaced, measures of prevention and ways to increase protection, assistance and solutions for internally displaced persons;

4. Also encourages the representative to continue to pay specific attention in his review to the protection and assistance needs of women and children, bearing in mind the relevant strategic objective in the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;

5. Looks forward to the comprehensive study being prepared by the representative to promote a comprehensive strategy for better protection, assistance and development for internally displaced persons;

A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

A/52/506, annex.

A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

6. Welcomes Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/39 of 11 April 1997, in which the Commission encourages the representative of the Secretary-General to continue, on the basis of his compilation and analysis of legal norms, to develop a comprehensive framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, and takes note of his preparations for guiding principles to this end;

7. Calls upon all Governments to continue to facilitate the activities of the representative, in particular Governments with situations of internal displacement, encourages them to give serious consideration to inviting the representative to visit their countries so as to enable him to study and analyse more fully the issues involved, and thanks those Governments which have already done so;

8. Invites Governments to give due consideration, in dialogue with the representative, to the recommendations and suggestions made to them by him, in accordance with his mandate, and to inform him of measures taken thereon;

9. Urges all relevant United Nations humanitarian assistance and development organizations concerned to enhance their collaboration with the representative by developing frameworks of cooperation to promote protection, assistance and development for internally displaced persons and to provide all possible assistance and support to him;

10. Urges these organizations, especially through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, to develop a more comprehensive and coherent system of collecting data on the situation of internally displaced persons, in cooperation with the representative of the Secretary-General;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the representative to carry out his mandate effectively;

12. Decides to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-fourth session.